

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7160

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Kazuo HIGUCHI)	
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
U.S. Filing Date: January 3, 2005)	Examiner: Unassigned
)	
National Stage of PCT/JP03/08003)	
)	
PCT Filing Date: June 24, 2003)	
)	
For: STAPLE REMAINING AMOUNT DETECTING APPARATUS IN ELECTRIC STAPLER		

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Enclosed is a Search Report from the PCT application from which this National Phase U.S. Application is derived citing and setting forth the relevance of JP-A-03-33077 and JP-A-04-54682.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art."

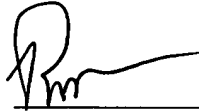
If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP



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Date: January 3, 2005

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	Applicants Kazuo HIGUCHI		
	Filing Date January 3, 2005		Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u>		
						YES	NO	
	JP-U-03-033077	April 2, 1991	Japan					X
	JP-U-04-054682	May 11, 1992	Japan					X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	